

## Message

**From:** Kaiser, Steven [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=10BF2440EDD749D2845015C7AB59FF4B-SKAISE02]  
**Sent:** 3/21/2017 2:53:08 PM  
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**Subject:** USS Lead - Press

**East Chicago press clips****US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs****March 21, 2017****Chicago Tribune - EPA readies to resume work in East Chicago****NWI Times – EPA secures \$16 million as cleanup resumes at USS Lead Superfund site****Local housing programs could suffer under proposed cuts****WBAA - Temporary Moves Draw Near For Remaining West Calumet Residents**

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/epa-secures-million-as-cleanup-resumes-at-uss-lead-superfund/article\\_3443389b-75bc-5005-866e-34844be3f198.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/epa-secures-million-as-cleanup-resumes-at-uss-lead-superfund/article_3443389b-75bc-5005-866e-34844be3f198.html)

**EPA secures \$16 million as cleanup resumes at USS Lead Superfund site**

- [Steve Garrison steve.garrison@nwi.com, 219-662-5331](mailto:steve.garrison@nwi.com)

CROWN POINT — The Environment Protection Agency announced Monday it was preparing to resume remediation work in the USS Lead Superfund site, which includes the West Calumet Housing Complex, according to an agency press release.

The remediation, which will include removing contaminated soil at an estimated 72 properties in zone 2 of the site and yard cleanup at another 120 properties in zone 3, will be funded in part by an additional \$16 million the EPA secured from parties potentially responsible for the contamination, according to the release.

The EPA will also conduct dust testing inside each of the homes and conduct thorough cleanings as needed, the release states.

On March 10, Gov. Eric Holcomb signed an executive order that [extends for 30 more days](#) the disaster emergency he declared last month due to lead contamination in parts of East Chicago.

The 322-acre Superfund site covered by the disaster emergency is bounded by East Chicago Avenue on the north, East 151st Street on the South, the Indiana Harbor Canal on the west, and Parrish Avenue on the east.

“Governor Holcomb and I agree that protecting the well-being of the people who live on the USS Lead Superfund site is crucial,” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a statement. “EPA is accelerating the cleanup to keep residents safe in their homes and neighborhoods.”

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-east-chicago-epa-work-st-0321-20170320-story.html>

**EPA readies to resume work in East Chicago****Craig Lyons Post-Tribune****March 20, 2017**

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) announced Monday it's readying to start remediation work on almost 200 East Chicago properties.

The EPA is expected to restart remediation work at homes within the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site, which includes East Chicago's Calumet neighborhood, according to a press release. The cleanup work will be bolstered by an additional \$16 million the EPA secured from the parties responsible for the contamination at the site.

"Gov. Holcomb and I agree that protecting the well-being of the people who live on the U.S.S. Lead Superfund site is crucial," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, in a statement. "EPA is accelerating the cleanup to keep residents safe in their homes and neighborhoods."

The EPA expects to remediate the soil around 120 homes in Zone 3, which runs east of Huish Drive, and 72 homes in Zone 2, which is west of Kennedy Avenue, during the 2017 construction season. The properties targeted for cleanup have high concentrations of lead and arsenic in the soil, according to the EPA.

As the EPA plans to start its efforts, the state is still reviewing its option to provide additional resources to help the city deal with contamination crisis.

"The health and well-being of Hoosier families is fundamental to our prosperity as a state," Holcomb said in a statement. "I am thrilled to be working with Administrator Pruitt and his team, along with local leaders and stakeholders, on efforts at the USS Superfund Site in East Chicago. When local, state, and federal partners collaborate, resources can be directed to have the greatest benefit for communities facing these challenges."

As the 2016 construction season wrapped up, EPA officials had remediated soil at 17 homes in Zone 2 of the site, which runs from McCook Avenue to East Huish Drive, and 38 in Zone 3, which runs from East Huish Drive to Parrish Avenue. In Zone 2, the EPA sampled soil from 494 of 596 homes, according to the federal agency, and 419 of 480 homes in Zone 3.

EPA officials anticipated that at least 395 homes in Zone 2 and 212 in Zone 3 still need remediation, according to documents filed in federal court.

Indoor dust sampling was done at residences in both zones 2 and 3, according to the EPA, and if levels of lead were above those considered safe, cleaning was offered to those residents. The EPA will continue to sample dust in homes when excavation restarts in the spring.

<http://wbtaa.org/post/epa-gets-16m-more-lead-clean-east-chicago-superfund#stream/0>

#### **EPA Gets \$16M More For Lead Clean-Up In East Chicago Superfund**

By Nick Janzen • 15 hours ago

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has secured an additional \$16 million to clean up a lead-contaminated Superfund site in the Calumet neighborhood of East Chicago, Indiana.

That money comes after "an agreement with several potentially responsible parties," according to an EPA press release issued Tuesday.

Combined with \$26 million from a 2014 settlement with DuPont and Atlantic Richfield, it will fund clean-up work in two parts of the Superfund site. That work is set to resume in April.

In the press release, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt says "protecting the well-being of the people who live on the USS Lead Superfund site is crucial," and that the EPA is accelerating the cleanup.

The Superfund is comprised of a former USS Lead facility, a residential neighborhood and the West Calumet Housing Complex. It was designated in 2009, and its lead and arsenic contamination is hundreds of times higher than the legal limit. Cleanup began in 2016, and this year, the EPA says it plans on cleaning up nearly 200 contaminated properties.

The EPA also says cleanup of the West Calumet Housing Complex — which East Chicago Mayor Anthony Copeland ordered demolished last year — is temporarily on hold.

*This is a developing story. Check back for updates as more information becomes available.*

[http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/east-chicago/local-housing-programs-could-suffer-under-proposed-cuts/article\\_0830a24a-bb9f-59ae-8ed8-b98c87a5bf6c.html](http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/east-chicago/local-housing-programs-could-suffer-under-proposed-cuts/article_0830a24a-bb9f-59ae-8ed8-b98c87a5bf6c.html)

#### **Trump budget**

#### **Local housing programs could suffer under proposed cuts**

- [Ed Bierschenk edwin.bierschenk@nwi.com](mailto:edwin.bierschenk@nwi.com), 219-933-4195 Mar 19, 2017 Updated 16 hrs ago

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- Programs that go toward rehabilitating housing and promoting home ownership in Northwest Indiana could suffer if cuts proposed for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are approved.

Community leaders are quick to caution it is early in the budget process. But a budget put forth by the Trump administration would cut \$4.3 billion from HUD, eliminating programs like the Community Development Block Grant and the HOME Investments Partnerships Program.

Jim Bennett, a financial consultant for East Chicago, said all communities would be hurt by cuts in the CDBG program, "but I think you would have to see the end product before we got too excited."

Bennett does anticipate reductions in the program, a portion of which is used for housing rehabilitation in East Chicago. Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson was quick to criticize the president's budget proposal.

"Securing a nation is not only ensuring that we can protect our borders and fight enemies of freedom (at) home and abroad. Security also includes decent and affordable housing in urban and rural communities for our seniors, veterans and others who depend on Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds," she said in a statement.

The city receives about \$3 million annually in CDBG, HOME and Emergency Solutions Grant money, Freeman-Wilson said.

Money from the HOME program was used to build NWI Veterans Village, which provides housing for 42 veterans who were previously homeless, Freeman-Wilson said.

Money from the federal programs was also used to aid in Sojourner Truth House's creation of supportive housing for homeless individuals and families at 11th Avenue and Madison Street, she noted. STH is a limited partner and TWG Development LLC of Indianapolis is the general project partner for the Village of Hope.

In addition, Freeman-Wilson said some federal money is being used to fund a new fire station at 4900 Pennsylvania St., which will house firefighters now operating out of the Calumet Township Multipurpose Center. CDBG money is also used to support Gary's Code Enforcement Department, she said.

Phil Taillon, executive director of Hammond's Planning and Development Department, said half of the money for the city's Homebound Program, which provides financial assistance for down payment and closing costs for people buying homes in Hammond, comes from CDBG money. The other half of the funding comes from gaming revenue allocated for Mayor Thomas M. McDermott Jr. to use for city projects.

The federal funds are also used to provide assistance to the disabled needing ramps for their residences, for the city's Youth Sports Recreation program and a plethora of other programs.

<http://wbaa.org/post/temporary-moves-draw-near-remaining-west-calumet-residents#stream/0>

### **Temporary Moves Draw Near For Remaining West Calumet Residents**

By [Annie Ropeik](#) • 16 hours ago

Around 80 families are still living in lead-contaminated public housing in East Chicago, Indiana. This week, they'll receive details about where the city plans to relocate them after the March 31 deadline to move out.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development spokeswoman Elena Gaona say 250 families have relocated from West Calumet Housing Complex since the lead crisis began last fall. Another 19 have housing lined up.

The remaining 81 will be moved to lead-free units HUD and the city have chosen in East Chicago, Gary and Chicago's Housing Authorities.

"If families are satisfied with their new units, they can opt to sign a lease and remain there as their new home, avoiding a double move," Gaona said in an email. "If families do not like their new temporary home, they are encouraged to continue meeting with the housing counselors available to them to find their new permanent home."

Residents are still using housing vouchers from HUD to search for new housing. Most of those vouchers expire in June.

Gaona says HUD will continue providing relocation services to residents that need them, but the agency will close its temporary West Calumet office on April 7 and move those services off-site.

Residents can also appeal the housing authority's decision to move them, she says, and "can work with" the Housing Authority if they've found a new home but can't move in until the beginning of April.

Otherwise, Gaona says, the Housing Authority is authorized to pay for the moves.

"Between March 31 to April 1 [sic], [East Chicago Housing Authority-]contracted movers will transport residents' belongings to the emergency transfer units," Gaona said in her email. "Final residents' moves should be completed by April 3."

After that, the city will still need HUD approval for its plan to raze West Calumet. HUD officials have said they expect to issue that approval after all families at the complex have moved out.

Sincerely,

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